

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PREPARATIONS ARE MOVING FORWARD FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) WHICH WILL BE HELD IN ROME DEC 1-2. ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL AGENDA EXISTS, THIS CABLE GIVES A RUNDOWN, BASED ON OUR CONTACTS WITH PERM DEL OFFICIALS AND ON REPORTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL OF NOV 5-6, OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH MAY COME UP FOR CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY

2. WE SHOULD OBSERVE INITIALLY THAT FORECASTING THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS HAZARDOUS. EVERYONE HAS HIS OWN LIST. FURTHERMORE, NO ONE IS CERTAIN YET IF A DETAILED AGENDA WILL IN FACT BE PREPARED, OR IF ONLY GENERAL HEADINGS WILL BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE MEETING--(ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR HAS ARGUED FOR THE LATTER APPROACH.) THE MEMBER STATES ARE STILL TRYING TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE BALANCE BETWEEN OVER-PREPARATION (E.G. PARIS 1974 OR THE FIRST EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN DUBLIN), AND UNDER-PREPARATION (E.G. THE COPENHAGEN FIRESIDE CHAT). THE FORMER, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, WAS TOO CONSTRAINING, AND THE LATTER TOO DIFFUSE. CLEARLY, A NUMBER OF PAPERS WILL BE

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PREPARED IN ADVANCE OF THE ROME MEETING, BUT THERE IS A GENERAL

AWARENESS THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL NOT FEEL CONSTRAINED TO DISCUSS ONLY THOSE TOPICS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE. THE TOPICS TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN NOW AND DEC 1. THE SIX NATION SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT RAMBOUILLET, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MANEUVERING RELATED TO THE CIEC, AND SEVERAL EC COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY MODIFY THE LIST GIVEN BELOW.

3. DIRECT ELECTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS BASED ON BOTH A DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL AND ON THE PATIJN REPORT PREPARED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP). THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH DIRECT ELECTIONS INCLUDE THE FIXING OF THE TARGET DATE, THE QUESTION OF THE DUAL MANDATE, THE QUESTION OF A SINGLE DATE FOR EUROPEAN PRLIAMENT ELECTIONS VS. HOLDING ELECTIONS ON THE SAME DAY AS NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, AND THE SIZE OF MEMBER STATES' DELEGATIONS IN THE EXPANDED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS WILL BE MADE ON THE DIRECT ELECTIONS ISSUE, LARGELY DUE TO THE UK RESERVATION WHICH OUR SOURCES INDICATE IS UNLIKELY TO BE LIFTED BEFORE SPRING.

4. PASSPORT UNION AND SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR EC CITIZENS: UNDER BOTH OF THESE HEADINGS THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS TO RECEIVE PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY THE PARIS SUMMIT IN DEC 1974. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE SOME PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STANDARDIZATION OF COMMUNITY PASSPORTS (IN TERMS OF SIZE AND COLOR, WORDING, ETC.) ALTHOUGH THE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SOME TIME OFF. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE NOT EXPECTED TO TACKLE IN ANY MEANINGFUL DEGREE THE TOUGHER PROBLEM OF ELIMINATING IMMIGRATION CONTROLS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S BORDER. LITTLE PROGRESS IS EXPECTED ON THE SPECIAL RIGHTS FILE BEFORE THE SPRING.

5. FINANCING THE COMMUNITY: A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES, MOST NOTABLY THE GERMANS, INTEND TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF FINANCING THE COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) AND ON THE COMMUNITY'S AID EFFORTS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAP, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A PAPER PREPARED BY THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WHICH WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 10154).

6. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE BEFORE THEM A PAPER TO BE PREPARED BY THE EC FINANCE MINISTERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON NOV 17 INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO A NEW UNIT OF ACCOUNT AND STRICTER BUDGET CONTROL MECHANISMS. THE PAPER MAY ALSO INCLUDE THE GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR AN EC COMMISSIONER

WITH EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE EC BUDGET. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS UNDER THIS HEADING.

7. PREPARATION FOR THE CIEC: IF, AS IS PROBABLE, THE QUESTION OF A SEPARATE UK SEAT IS STILL UNRESOLVED, IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC. MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COUNCIL. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE NOT EXPECTED TO DEAL IN ANY DETAIL WITH THE COMMUNITY'S CIEC MANDATE.

8. THE TINDEMANS REPORT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS HAS SAID HE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT HIS FULL REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH HE INTENDS TO MEET HIS DEC 31 DEADLINE. AS A RESULT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT TINDEMANS WILL CONFINE HIMSELF TO GIVING HIS COLLEAGUES AN ORAL PROGRESS REPORT WHICH WE DOUBT WILL BE DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY.

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9. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY: THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY WILL HAVE BEFORE THEM THE RESULTS OF THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE (ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MANAGEMENT, TRADE UNIONS AND GOVERNMENT) WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON NOV 18. WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL

DO MORE, AT THIS TIME, THAN PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO GREATER SOLIDARITY IN THE BATTLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION.

10. RAMBOUILLET POST-MORTEM: SOME OF THE SMALL EC MEMBER STATES ARE UPSET THAT THE EC IS NOT PARTICIPATING AS A GROUP AT RAMBOUILLET, AND MAY CALL UPON THEIR COLLEAGUES FOR A REPORT OF WHAT TOOK PLACE. SHOULD THOSE ATTENDING RAMBOUILLET UNDERTAKE ANY COMMITMENTS IN AREAS REGARDED AS "EC BUSINESS", SOME OF THE MINISTERS MAY VOCIFEROUSLY EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE.

11. COORDINATION OF ANTI-TERRORIST EFFORTS: THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE EXPECTED TO BE ASKED BY THE IRISH AND BRITISH TO TAKE STEPS TO COORDINATE MORE EFFECTIVELY EC-NINE EFFORTS AGAINST TERRORISM. SOURCES HERE INDICATE THAT SHOULD TIME BE AVAILABLE FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION UNDER THIS HEADING, IT IS POSSIBLE REAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIGHT, IN ADDITION TO A PUBLIC DECLARATION ON THE SUBJECT, CALL FOR A COUNCIL MEETING OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTERS WHILE TASKING THE EC COMMISSION WITH PREPARING A PLAN FOR COORDINATED ACTION BY THE MEMBER STATES.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL IMPASSE: ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL, THE BRITISH MAY BE TAKEN TO TASK BY THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EC-WIDE EMISSION CONTROL STANDARDS FOR A "FLASH LIST" OF EXTREMELY TOXIC, NON-BIODEGRADABLE POLLUTANTS.

13. COMMENT. OBVIOUSLY, A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE FOREGOING TOPICS WOULD KEEP THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT GOING FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. AT THE TWO-DAY ROME MEETING, TIME WILL BE TIGHT BECAUSE UNLESS THIS COUNCIL DIFFERS GREATLY FROM ITS PREDECESSORS, THE ITALIANS WILL SCHEDULE ONE PRIVATE (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN MINISTERS ONLY) DINNER, ONE FORMAL LUNCH AND ONE FORMAL DINNER, FOLLOWED BY SOME SORT OF ENTERTAINMENT. ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE ALREADY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE FOR "WORKING SESSIONS." AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HELD IN BRUSSELS HERE IN JULY, THE TOTAL TIME ACTUALLY DEVOTED TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WAS APPROXIMATELY SEVEN HOURS. FINALLY, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CANNOT STRETCH THE TIME DEVOTED TO SUBSTANCE BY CONDUCTING BUSINESS AT THEIR PRIVATE DINNER BECAUSE, STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM IN THIS THE EC'S 18TH YEAR, TOGETHER THEY AND THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE NO SINGLE COMMON LANGUAGE. GREENWALD

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